

The FCC needs to step in immediately to prevent Sinclair from carrying out its threat to show a biased anti-Kerry film to millions of voters just weeks before the election.

By all means the film should be available to the public, but not without the other side of the story and an evenhanded opportunity to debate which facts are true.

The public is relying on the FCC to take action now to prevent this blatant use of media monopoly against the interests of open, free debate. Our democracy relies on the free exchange of ideas, and Sinclair uses public airwaves only under the condition that they keep opinions balanced. Asking Kerry on-air after the film is not a reasonable alternative since the propaganda effect of a feature film is much more powerful than a simple interview. Sinclair must either show a similar pro-Kerry film around the same time, or withhold all biased programming on the subject.

If the FCC continues to allow stations to abuse their media powers in cases like this, it will be doing a grave disservice to a fundamental American value.